

Remarks &
Commemorations of Debates

DRAWER

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DEBATES

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The Lincoln-Douglas Debates 1858

Reenactments and Commemorations

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

5014

TO REVIVE FAMOUS LINCOLN DEBATES

STATE SUPERINTENDENT BLAIR
SENDS LITERATURE TO THE
SCHOOLS.

SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS

Pamphlets Will Be Sent to Every
Teacher Outlining Course to Keep
Alive Memory of Oratorical
Contest.

1908

SPRINGFIELD, March 20.—To secure a general celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Lincoln-Douglas debates by the schools of this state, Superintendent of Public Instruction Blair today issued a large pamphlet liberally illustrated, containing a large quantity of material on the debates. These pamphlets will be sent to every school in the state. The Lincoln-Douglas debates, Mr. Blair has decided, shall form the subject of the school essay that is to furnish a part of the exhibit that schools are to make at the state fair this fall.

The pamphlete was prepared under the direction of Edwin E. Sparks of the University of Chicago, James A. James of Northwestern and Edward C. Page of the De Kalb Normal school.

The pamphlet was prepared under the direction of that section of the freize in the state house rotunda representing the Lincoln and Douglas, scenes of their early life and monuments to their memory, with a map of the congressional districts as they were in 1858. The compilers of the pamphlet ask that one or two days be given in each school to consideration of the debates. The pamphlet contains a list of the information that a teacher or pupils require to make up a program.

The following is a list of its contents:

- Suggestions to teachers.
- Introduction.
- Origin and Outcome of the Debates.
- An Eastern Reporter's View of Western Stump Speaking.
- As a Republican Reporter Saw It.

- How Douglas Reached Illinois.
- The Great Debate (from the Crisis).
- The Debate and the Debaters (from the Illini).
- Birthplace of Douglas.
- Stephen A. Douglas, by Samuel P. Orth.
- Stephen A. Douglas, by Joseph A. Wallace.
- Abraham A. Lincoln, by David B. Locke.
- Lincoln and Douglas, by Cassius M. Clay.
- Contrast Between Lincoln and Douglas, by General James B. Fry.
- Douglas and Lincoln, by Stephen B. Warden.
- The Lincoln-Douglas Debates.
- The Great Debate, by Samuel P. Orth.
- As an Eastern Reporter Saw Them.
- How Douglas Traveled.
- As Douglas Appeared at Close of Debates.
- Selections from the Debates.
- Lincoln and Douglas at Freeport; a Dialogue.
- Old Dan Tucker.
- A Douglas Song.
- Oh, You Can't Go the Caper, Stephen.
- Wide Awake Club Song.
- For Good Little Democrats.
- A Boys' Wish.
- A Douglas to the Fray.
- Douglas' Complaint.
- Uncle Abe.
- Emerson on Lincoln's Literary Ability.
- Dedication of Gettysburg Battle Field.
- A Last Glimpse of the Rivals.
- Bury Me in the Morning, by Stephen A. Douglas.
- Last Words of Douglas.
- Bibliography.

The Courier-Journal
Louisville Kentucky

August 27, 1922. 3

FAMOUS DEBATES ARE CELEBRATED

60,000 Gather At Freeport,
Ill., In Memory of Lincoln-
Douglas Event.

DRAMA IS RE-ENACTED

Freeport, Ill., Aug. 26 (Associated Press).—Lincoln and Douglas lived again in Freeport today. On a high stage erected near the scene of their famous debate in 1858, characters in the historic political drama of sixty-four years ago appeared. Lincoln was impersonated by the Rev. John R. Pickells, Episcopal rector, and Douglas by Stephen A. Douglas of Freeport, who claims kinship to the "Little Giant."

The pageant was preceded by a parade in which were girls representing the thirty-two States of the Union in 1858 and characters representing Kansas and Nebraska, States in which turmoil over slavery raged in days of Lincoln and Douglas, together with mounted heralds, a mounted escort, pages and other attendants. After these came a long line of men, women and children, wearing costumes that were in vogue in 1858, many of them having been preserved by ancestors of those who heard the original debate.

Ox carts and other ancient vehicles creaked their way along the thoroughfares to the boulder marking the site of the debate. The procession passed down Stephenson Street, past the historic Brewster House, hostelry at which Lincoln and Douglas were guests sixty-four years ago and where Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi and Karl C. Schuyler of Denver, who participated in today's debate, were being entertained. Schuyler occupied the room Lincoln used and Harrison the one in which Douglas had his headquarters, the hostelry standing today practically as it did in 1858.

A crowd estimated at 50,000 heard

the debate at Taylor Park today between Senator Harrison and Mr. Schuyler, who discussed the issues of the day. While both eulogized the great political leaders who debated here years ago, they also devoted a large portion of their speeches to discussion of present day problems. Schuyler, who spoke first, suggested the prohibition of strikes and lockouts by law if necessary by Constitutional amendment.

This evoked the reply from Mr. Harrison that such a plan was not practicable.

Mr. Harrison declared there would be strikes and lockouts as long as some men had to work for a living and other men conducted industries that required the labor of great numbers of workers. He suggested that the quickest way to end the strike would be to bring the leaders of both sides to Washington, make them show their hands, and then, if one side or the other refused to yield to reasonable demands to inform the American people and let them judge. He said he believed labor should have the right to organize, just as bankers, manufacturers and business groups did, and he indicated he believed workers have the right to strike when they have exhausted every other means to obtain justice.

The Daily News
Chicago

Sept 16, 1922

LINCOLN DEBATE CELEBRATED

Janesville, Ill., to Turn Out at
Church Anniversary Fete.

[By The Associated Press.]

Janesville, Ill., Sept. 16.—Shiloh church, near here, is to hold a celebration next Monday, the anniversary of the Lincoln-Douglas debate at Charleston, the neighboring town. Shiloh church adjoins the little cemetery on Goose Neck prairie where Abraham Lincoln's father and step-mother are buried. The building, erected about forty-five years ago, was rebuilt this summer and a memorial window was erected to Thomas Lincoln and his second wife, Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln.

The speaker of the day will be the

Rev. Dr. William E. Barton, Oak Park, Ill., author of books on Lincoln. People who knew Lincoln will relate reminiscences. Dr. Barton will also speak at the celebration in Charleston, which will be under the auspices of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Lincoln Debates With Douglass Are Broadcast

2 Chicago Stations Send Out Speeches While Third Puts On Drinkwater's Play; Gettysburg Address Here

Many Visit Old Shrines

Smoot Eulogizes Emancipator in Senate Recalling His Views on State Problems

By The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 12.—The words of Lincoln, spoken almost as though he himself were speaking them, were heard over the radio to-night, the 118th anniversary of his birth, by thousands of listeners here, where he had his home and where his body now rests, and throughout Illinois, the state where he first gained political prominence.

Two of the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates were broadcast by Chicago stations, with speakers representing the President and his fiery opponent. They were the Ottawa debate and the Freeport debate, both of which stirred the nation in 1858. WGN broadcast the first and WLS the second. In addition to the debates parts of John Drinkwater's play, "Abraham Lincoln," were broadcast by WMAQ players, while the Gettysburg speech was broadcast from WGBS, New York.

Here to-day residents and visitors from all sections of the country walked the same paths Lincoln trod, made pilgrimages to his home and viewed the many intimate relics preserved here in

memory of the Civil War statesman and his wife and children.

Lincoln's tomb was draped and Boy Scouts paid tribute there, while crowds stood at attention. Another ceremony was held at the State House, also a Lincoln shrine because of his service there as a Representative.

In Chicago former Senator James Hamilton Lewis, speaking before the Covenant Club, declared that "for not heeding the counsels of Lincoln this United States is to-day in more peril than at any other time since the war between the states."

"Let us take every step necessary to preserve to our generation and its children this nation as 'a government of the people, by the people, and for the people,'" he pleaded.

Sen. Smoot Eulogizes Lincoln

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 (AP).—Abraham Lincoln was eulogized in the Senate to-day by Senator Smoot of Utah, who declared the Emancipator was the wisest politician in American history.

After reviewing the life and political struggles between Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, Senator Smoot asserted that "all that Mr. Lincoln accomplished was through party organization and united effort."

"What would be Mr. Lincoln's views on the perplexing problems now confronting America?" continued the Senator. "We can judge only by what he said and did."

"What would Mr. Lincoln say of law enforcement?" In 1837, he said:

"Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap. In short, let it become the political religion of the nation."

Cites Views on Religion

"What would Mr. Lincoln say of Communism and similar creeds? He was the apostle of human rights and, as such, insisted upon the right of the individual to acquire property and hold it under the protection of the law."

"What would Mr. Lincoln say about government in the field of the private business? He said: 'In all that people can individually do for themselves, the government ought not to interfere.'

"Mr. Lincoln's nationalism did not mean isolation, but independence tempered with peace among all nations and with commerce throughout the world."

Lincoln Debates To Go On Air From Chicago Stations

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.—(By A. P.)
—The Lincoln-Douglas debate at Freeport on August 27, 1858, will be reproduced tonight at radio station WLS beginning 8 p. m., central standard time.
The famous Ottawa debate, the first in the Lincoln-Douglas series of 1858, will be reproduced by station WGN between 9 and 10 p. m., central standard time.

Re-Enact 3d Lincoln-Douglas Debate

By Justin Fishbein

Sun-Times Staff Correspondent

JONESBORO—Abraham Lincoln took his courage in hand 100 years ago and noiled down to Egypt.

Monday is the centennial of his third debate with his Democratic opponent for the U.S. Senate, Stephen A. Douglas.

But here on the southern slope of the Illinois Ozarks the debate was re-enacted Friday as a climax to the second annual Illinois forest festival. Fewer than 1,000 persons witnessed the re-enactment.

The crowd, however, was not much smaller than the 1,500 folks who came to the fairgrounds in 1858 in ox-drawn wagons.

The debate site now is a few steps from the district office of the U.S. department of agriculture's forest service. It is part of the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois 327 miles south of Chicago.

Jonesboro and Union County in 1858 had not many more than 1,000 residents, mostly first-generation descendants of pioneers from North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky. A few had



Sun-Times Map

The Lincoln-Douglas debate sites.

come from New England.

Thomas Ford, governor from 1842-46, described them as "poor white folks." He continued:

"Our southern settlements presented but few specimens of the more wealthy, enterprising, intellectual, and cultivated people from the slave states."

"Those who did come were very good, honest, kind, hospitable people, unambitious of wealth and great lovers of ease and social enjoyment."

In the 1820s, the early pioneers had witnessed a steady trek of southern families bound for Missouri with slaves in tow, the sight prompted them to wage a battle, unsuccessful in the end to make Illinois a slave state.

In Union County, that battle was led by Alexander P. Field who later became an Illinois secretary of state, and John Grammer, a territorial legislator and later state senator.

A Pioneer Bred In Poverty

Grammer was a rough-hewn pioneer, so poor that women-folk sold nuts to buy enough material to make him a suit worthy of the territorial legislature.

Jonesboro had fostered other men prominent in early Illinois. John Reynolds, who became governor, practiced law here; and Daniel P. Cook, who was the first Illinois attorney general and for whom Cook County is named, presided over the first session of the Union County court.

That session occurred in 1818, the year Illinois was admitted to the Union but 15 years after the first settlers had arrived in Union County.

Two families "braving the wilds, the dense forests and its almost impenetrable undergrowth," settled near the headwaters of the Cache River. Those were the families of Ahrum Hunsaker and George Wolfe.

Though many Hunsakers migrated to the area, Ahrum vanished in history. Wolfe, however, held several county offices and became a preacher in the Church of the Brethren, popularly called Dunkards.

How Union County Got Its Name

Around 1810, Preacher Jones arrived, shouting the faith of the primitive Baptists. The Dunkards and Baptists joined in an interfaith revival after which the ministers shook hands. Thus, "Union" County.

Wolfe selected the site for a county seat on 20 acres of land owned by Grammer. He named it after Preacher Jones.

The settlers who came were an uneducated lot for the most part and quite superstitious.

The Illinois Central R.R., which laid tracks within two miles of Jonesboro in the early 1850s, ran into superstition trouble. A drought occurred and outraged settlers blamed the telegraph lines along the tracks for robbing the skies of electricity.

The railroad bypassed Jonesboro in the first place because the townsfolk did not want to spend \$50 for a land survey.

One of Jonesboro's local merchants, Winstead Davie, had the foresight to realize what a railroad would mean and he laid out a town around Jonesboro Station, naming it for his wife, Anna.

An Age Of Dark Violence

Davie was crippled from birth but refused to let his handicap defeat him. He educated himself and in 1817, migrated to Jonesboro from Dover, Tenn.

He was not a violent man, however, like so many other of the early settlers. Lynchings occurred occasionally. Less than



ABRAHAM LINCOLN STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS

Portraits by W. I. Terry III. Courtesy Chicago Historical Society.

15 years before the 1858 debate, armed hands from Kentucky had seized a sheriff's posse in Massac County, Ill., drowning the captives.

No wonder, then, that the pro-Republican Chicago Journal noted with alarm "whispers of a proposed attempt on the part of Missourians and Kentuckians, who are coming over to shout for Douglas, to 'put down' Lincoln." There were, in fact, few Republicans in Union County (which still is a Democratic stronghold).

Lincoln did have a few friends, though. He spent the night with David L., Phillips' attorney and land agent for the IC.

The night before the debate, the Little Giant spoke and parted in Cairo.

Lincoln, meanwhile, arrived at Jonesboro Station aboard the IC and went to Phillips' home for supper. Later, he visited with newsmen at a hotel in Jonesboro.

The morning of the debate, Lincoln and Phillips took a ride to Willard's Landing, 25 miles away on the banks of the Mississippi River.

Douglas that morning started from Cairo for Jonesboro Station aboard the IC in his private railroad car. A band led by Prof. Joseph E. Terpiniz, a Jonesboro jeweler and musician, accompanied him.

Lincoln's Quips Win Laughter

There was no parade to the Jonesboro fairgrounds where a plank platform without a railing had been erected atop rough logs in the shade of a large oak tree.

Lincoln tried to make friends with the crowd, meager as it was. He declared:

"Why, I know this people better than he [Douglas] does. I was raised just a little east of here. I am part of this people. But the judge was raised further north and perhaps he has some horrid idea of what this people might be induced to do." (Roars of laughter and cheers.)

Douglas, who was born in Vermont, countered: "My friends, Vermont is the most glorious spot on the face of this globe for a man to be born in provided he emigrates when he is very young." (Uproarious shouts of laughter.)

Lincoln also sought to appease the local residents when he



In re-enactment of Jonesboro debate, Neal Claussen, portraying Lincoln, addresses crowd as Richard Rieke (back to camera), portraying Douglas, sits on platform. (Photo for Sun-Times by Mrs. Geneva Wiggs)

asserted that he would let slavery alone in states where it already existed.

After the debate, he spent another night with Phillips before leaving for Centralia, Douglas left for Benton.

In November, William A. Hacker, leader of the Douglas faction, was elected to the General Assembly, defeating John S. Hunsaker, head of the Buchanan Democrats.

Phillips was seeking office then, too, but was defeated. However, during the Civil War, Lincoln appointed him U.S. marshal for the Southern District of Illinois.

Area Teemed With 'Copperheads'

His reward probably was not a good one. The area abounded with southern sympathizers known as "Copperheads" or Knights of the Golden Circle.

And the 109th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers raised in the area had to be disbanded in 1863. Army records state that 237 men had deserted while others were ready to surrender to the rebels.

This was the atmosphere, then, in which the great debate was re-enacted. Lincoln was portrayed by Neal Claussen, 25, of Petersburg, which is just around a bend in the Sangamon River from New Salem.

Douglas's part was taken by Richard Rieke, director of forensics at Ohio State University. Both were Southern Illinois University debaters.

Because so much of the debate text is no longer of general interest, the three-hour speeches were shortened to 45 minutes.

But in 1858, they were important. The two debaters hastened to Charleston in Coles County where they would meet on Sept. 18. Lincoln's relatives, including his stepmother, lived near there yet most of the residents were old-line Whigs. How would Lincoln appeal to them?

How Reporter Viewed '58 Debate

JONESBORO, Sept. 15, 1858

—The first debate in "Egypt," between Douglas and Lincoln, took place here today. As compared with audiences they had at Ottawa and Freeport, the crowd was small, and lacking in enthusiasm. There were not two thousand people in attendance. There is no enthusiasm—no excitement, in this region, for Douglas.

There was no cheering—no anything as Douglas's train arrived.

About 2 o'clock, the crowd gathered in a grove nearby and the debate commenced.

Mr. Douglas opened by attempting to prove that in 1850, and prior to 1854, the National Whig party and the National Democratic party stood upon a common platform regarding the subject of Slavery. But that in 1854, some of the disappointed leaders of both parties combined to break up both the Democratic party and the Whig party, and consequently inaugurated the "Black Republican" or ab-

100th Anniversary

Monday is the 100th anniversary of the third Lincoln-Douglas debate. In their first venture into southern Illinois, the rival candidates for the U.S. Senate met at Jonesboro Sept. 15, 1858. This is a condensed version of a dispatch to the Chicago Journal of Sept. 17, 1858, reprinted in the Alton Weekly Courier of Sept. 23, 1858.

tion organization, making hostility to the rights, interests and institutions of the Slave States the great issue of their movements, and forcing into being sectional warfare.

Charges 'Combine'

In Illinois, Lincoln and Trumbull united into combination to inaugurate the same movement, a bargain having been previously made that Lincoln and Trumbull should be made Senators by the arrangement.

Douglas quoted from Mr. Lincoln's speech, made at the Republican State Convention at Springfield in regard to "a house being divided against itself," not being able to stand, and at-

tempts to show that Lincoln was in favor of the dissolution of the Union. Three cheers were given for Lincoln when he arose, and that gentleman then proceeded, saying that he most cordially approved of Mr. Douglas's sentiments in regard to the "State Rights" and "State Sovereignty," and that he had tried long and often to induce Douglas to believe that he Lincoln never had entertained any sentiments on this subject other than every State in the Union has the right to attend to its own affairs.

Asks Eurb On Slavery

He then replied to Douglas's structures and charges in regard to "uniformity." "Judge Douglas asks," he said, "why do not leave the Union as our fathers under us." "That is, Judge, is what I desire to do. Our fathers when they formed the Government were of the opinion that slavery was in the course of ultimate extinction, and we believed it is our duty to bring the country back to that belief—to limit slavery in its present limits by keeping it out of the new territories to change this wise policy of our fathers, Douglas has been principally instrumental. In regard to the charge of a "combination" between himself, Trumbull and the Abolitionists, he said that here is not a word of truth in it. He agreed with Judge Douglas that there must of necessity be a diversity of institutions and interests in the several States; but that regarding the slavery question, it must either be decided for or against its extension. The agitation will never cease until this is settled on some reliable basis, Lincoln said.

125th Anniversary
The Lincoln - Douglas Debates
Commemorative Covers

The LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES stand out in Illinois history as a unique and singular political event. Never before or since has such a dramatic spectacle been played out before the American electorate. Stephen A. Douglas, the most prominent political figure of his day, crossed swords with a relatively unknown prairie lawyer, Abraham Lincoln, and the resulting campaign altered the lives of both men. Lincoln emerged as a national figure and went on to a well deserved immortality. Douglas fought on valiantly, into defeat and eclipse.

In 1983 the 125th Anniversary of the LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES will be observed and Rampant Lion Hobby Press will commemorate the event in a philatelic way with an issue of Twenty [20] vari-colored cacheted covers. These covers will be mounted singly on specially prepared album sheets with additional explanatory text and illustrative material, plus four album sheets with commentary only.

Besides the seven sites of the Debates there will be covers from nine other places of historic importance in the campaign. Each cover will have a Lincoln stamp in the franking arrangement. All cachets will be printed in three colors on rag content envelopes. The final cover will bear the date of November 2nd [Election Day]. All of the covers will be loosely enclosed in crystal clear vinyl envelopes mounted on the album sheets. The entire collection is designed to fit into six standard philatelic exhibition frames.

Complete with album sheets the collection will be issued in an edition of 200 numbered sets, signed by the artist, designer, and author, Theodore S. Charrney. The cost of the collection is \$45.00 and will be delivered November 30, 1983. Number assignment will be on a first come basis. Satisfaction guaranteed.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO . . .



Rampant Lion Hobby Press

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CT 8/21

Debates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12
the substance.

Douglas, an 11-year incumbent considering a presidential bid, had everything to lose by debating Lincoln. He agreed only because it was considered cowardly to decline.

The challenger sacrificed little more than a law practice when he left political semiretirement to enter the race, mostly because of the senator he now sought to oust.

Name-calling also wasn't beyond Honest Abe and the Little Giant. Lincoln, for instance, always referred to Douglas as "Judge Douglas." That was a jab because most everyone in the audience knew Douglas got a judicial seat early in his career through political connections.

Douglas returned the attack by taking Lincoln's words and twisting them. Douglas took Lincoln's famous "House Divided" speech and argued that disunion was inevitable under Lincoln. After all, Douglas said, the Founding Fathers created the nation "half slave and half free."

Lincoln lost his senatorial bid, but it paved the way for his election as president two years later over Douglas.

It's Honest Abe vs. Little Giant, again

Lincoln and Douglas were a hot ticket; now 7 Illinois towns are bringing them back for special broadcasts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OTTAWA, Ill.—The candidates argued for three hours over the most explosive political issue of the day, offering no sound bites, without a publicist in sight.

Crowds strained to hear every word, perhaps knowing they were listening to the makings of history.

Now, 136 years after Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas traveled across Illinois arguing about slavery as they campaigned for the U.S. Senate, their debates are being re-enacted on the medium that reshaped 20th Century politics: television.

The public affairs network C-SPAN began its 15th anniversary celebration Saturday by showing live re-enactments of the historic Lincoln-Douglas debates from the Illinois towns where they occurred.

Don't expect television that will keep you perched on the edge of your seat. The debates held in Ottawa and six other Illinois towns in the summer and fall of 1858 weren't about womanizing, Supreme Court nominations or abortion.

"These were long, tedious and especially hard to understand," said C-SPAN Chairman Brian Lamb. "But we'll have a lot of fun with call-in shows, showing historical costumes and showcasing these small towns."

The candidates spoke for a total of 21 hours in the seven cities. And the topic was always the same: The expansion of slavery into newly acquired western territories.

"Longer speakers were much more conventional at that time. People's attention spans were trained," said David Zarefsky, a Lincoln-Douglas expert from Northwestern University.

"At the same time, I'm sure not everyone in the audience paid attention at all times. They brought picnics, their kids, all things going on that would be distracting."

C-SPAN isn't helping create the debates—that's up to the towns, each of which found funding for the re-enactments. C-SPAN will only send camera crews to the various sites as it would any modern political event.

Even if the debates might seem tedious to 20th Century audiences, the long, formal rhetorical jousts were compelling for 19th Century listeners, in part because of the fierce emotion surrounding the debate over slavery.

"It must have been just incredible," said Jim Gayan, a lifelong Ottawa resident and a school teacher who was Stephen Douglas in the Ottawa re-enactment Saturday.

"I can't imagine what it would be like. Maybe if we found out tomorrow that the O.J. Simpson trial was starting in Ottawa. Maybe that would be something like it."

The debates had national significance. It was a philosophical contest between the Democrats, represented by Douglas, and the newly formed Republican Party, championed by Lincoln. It was also a contest between North and South, foreshadowing the Civil War.

"They clashed right here like two bulls," said Leonard Lock, chairman of the historic preservation commission in Ottawa, where the first of the seven debates took place.

"In a sense, I know the Civil War started at Ft. Sumter in South Carolina, but the political war started right here."

But the people also showed up because their livelihoods were at stake. Although most non-slaveowners didn't care for slavery, wage-earners didn't want their pay to fall because of an influx of freed slaves.

The debates grabbed attention for the same reason as any ancient or modern debate: The event was peppered with crowd-pleasing techniques and strategies beyond

SEE DEBATES, PAGE 16

C-SPAN to show re-creations live

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 will be re-enacted using the most complete texts possible. Each live broadcast begins at noon CDT on C-SPAN. The six-hour shows will be re-broadcast Sundays at 10 a.m. CDT beginning Nov. 6. The dates and locations are: Ottawa, Saturday, Aug. 20; Freeport, Saturday Aug. 27; Jonesboro, Saturday Sept. 17; Charleston, Sunday, Sept. 18; Galesburg, Saturday, Oct. 8; Quincy, Sunday, Oct. 9; and Alton, Saturday, Oct. 15.

If the House of Representatives is in session on any of the dates, the debate broadcast will be postponed to a "rain date" in October.

Lincoln, Douglas to spar again

Ottawa debate to be re-enacted for TV

By **GREG STANMAR**
Pantagraph correspondent

OTTAWA — Abraham Lincoln was catapulted from a circuit-riding Illinois lawyer to a national spokesman for anti-slavery forces after seven debates with Stephen Douglas, a leading popular-sovereignty U.S. senator from Jacksonville and Chicago.

The first of those famous verbal battles was in Ottawa's Washington Park, and a re-enactment will be televised this summer by C-Span, the cable news network that made the announcement yesterday on the eve of Lincoln's birthday.

The coverage will be as if television cameras were available 136 years ago, a C-Span spokesman said, adding that TV crews will travel to all seven Illinois cities

where the original debates were held.

While television wasn't around in 1858, newspapers already had started using a new innovation for covering the news — a stenographer who took down every word. "Because of that, we know exactly what was said in the three hours Lincoln and Douglas spoke in Ottawa," said Mark Plummer, chairman of Illinois State University's history department.

Actually, scholars must look at two newspapers to get the full debate, he said. At the time, the State-Journal in Springfield was the leading pro-Lincoln newspaper and only carried what he said in Ottawa and elsewhere.

The Springfield Register, the leading Douglas newspaper, did

likewise for its candidate.

The debates also were held in Freeport, Jonesboro, Charleston, Galesburg, Quincy and Alton, which made up the seven congressional districts outside Chicago and Springfield, where the two men already had made speeches.

Douglas spoke first, for an hour. Lincoln then spoke for 1½ hours and Douglas rebutted him for the last half-hour.

Lincoln and Douglas were running for the U.S. Senate, a position that, at that time, was filled by the state Legislature. The debates were designed to encourage voters to elect state lawmakers who were sympathetic to their candidates.

Selecting the state's senators was usually decided in a secret caucus. In the case of the Lincoln-Douglas race, however, both parties already

had announced their candidates, which prompted Lincoln's famous House Divided speech in Springfield when he accepted the Republican nod.

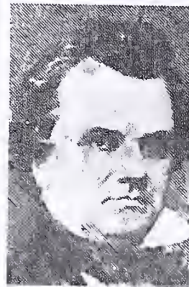
But the Republicans did not win enough votes in the Legislature to send Lincoln to Washington, D.C.

However, the debates were remembered, and Lincoln became the successful Republican candidate for president two years later. Douglas appeared soft on the slavery question to Southern Democrats who read the debate transcripts, and they abandoned him when he ran against Lincoln in 1860, costing him the election.

Douglas ended up supporting Lincoln, though the senator died shortly after the Civil War began.

There was no particular significance to choosing Ottawa as the first site, said Plummer, but that

Debate sites



Douglas

Ottawa
Freeport
Jonesboro
Charleston
Galesburg
Quincy
Alton



Lincoln

decision forever left the city mentioned in history books. The most significant debate actually occurred in the next city, Freeport, where Lincoln asked Douglas about allowing slavery in Kansas.

The debate re-enactment is normally attended by about 2,500 people when it is held each August, said Nick Kalogeresis, program director for the celebration. The debate this year will be Aug.

20, a day earlier than the historic event.

The 10,000 people who attended the original speech did so as much for the social activity as for political reasons, said Plummer. Kalogeresis said the people who come to Washington Park each year also do so for the fun as well as for a glimpse into history. The two-day celebration includes 19th century music, Civil War encampments and a symposium on Lincoln.

Prepare for Festival Debate



State Rep. G. William Horsley (left), as Abraham Lincoln, and Atty. S. Phil Hutchinson (right), as Stephen A. Douglas, with Carl Richardson, portraying Joseph Medill, founding editor of The Tribune. All will appear at Chicagoland Music Festival next Saturday night in Soldiers' field.



Richard Rosenberger, Patrician Ann Moeller, 23, and her sister, Mary Margaret, 3, all of Freeport, in costumes they will wear at festival in crowd scene re-enactment of Lincoln-Douglas debate.





